

Appln. No. 09/869,774
Amdt. dated March 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The November 20, 2003 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

ELECTION

The Examiner's indication that claims 22, 25 and 26 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention and that there is no allowable generic or linking claim is acknowledged.

DRAWINGS

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to because the Examiner contends that the "connecting member" set forth in claim 11 is not shown.

In response, Applicants respectfully state that the connecting member recited in claim 11 corresponds to either the

primary elastic member 6a or the secondary elastic member or material 60 as explained in the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5 of the present application.

The Examiner also indicates that element 60 which is disclosed as a secondary elastic member has incorrect cross-hatching for depicting an elastic material. In response, Applicant respectfully states that it appears that the Examiner is referring to Fig. 1B. The cross-hatched portion corresponds to the suspension plate 5 wherein reference numeral 5a corresponds to the central portion of the suspension plate and reference numeral 5b corresponds to the peripheral portion of the suspension plate. Reference numeral 60, which corresponds to the secondary elastic member, is applied to the surface of the peripheral portion 5b of the suspension plate to connect the vibration transmitter 12 and the peripheral portion 5b of the suspension plate. Therefore, Applicant respectfully believes that what is shown in the drawings is accurate.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In the Office Action the Examiner states that the Abstract of the Disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). In response, a new Abstract of the Disclosure is added to the present application. In view of the addition of the Abstract of the Disclosure, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure are respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the "connecting member" recited in claim 11. In response, Applicant respectfully states that the connecting member corresponds to the primary elastic member 6a or secondary elastic member or material 60 as explained in the paragraph spanning pages 4 and 5 of the present application. In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification are respectfully requested.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action claims 11 and 12 are rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner states that the connecting member is not described in the specification.

As explained above in connection with the objection to the specification, the connecting member corresponds to one of the primary elastic member 6a and the secondary elastic member or material 60.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11 and 12 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

Claim 20 is rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the word "sand" should be changed to -- said --.

In response, claim 20 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the amendment of claim 20, reconsideration

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and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

Other minor amendments have been made to claims 5 and 17 to correct inadvertent typographical, grammatical and/or translation errors.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 3-5 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7, 9-11, 13, 14, 16-21, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,894,263 (Shimakawa et al.). Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-14, 16-19, 21, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,628,798 (Teshima et al.). Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Shimakawa et al. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being

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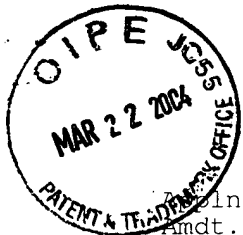
unpatentable over Shimakawa et al., and further in view of EP
1063020 (Seimitsu).

In response, claim 3 is cancelled and limitations from
claims 2 and 3 are incorporated into claim 1. The dependency of
2 is changed from "1" to --8--, the dependency of claim 4 is
changed from "3" to --1--, and claim 8 is re-presented in
independent form. That is, the claims which were deemed
allowable by the Examiner have been rewritten in independent
form. Therefore, no issues remain with regard to the prior art
rejections.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-21, 23, 24 and 27
are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly
solicited.

It is respectfully believed that no additional fees are due
in view of the claim amendments. However, if any additional fees
are due please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such
sum.

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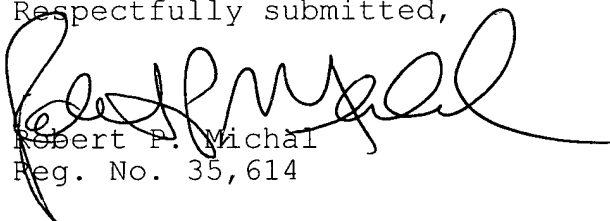
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If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time